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AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A process for the decomposition of N_2O to N_2 and O_2 comprising: decomposing N_2O to N_2 and O_2 at a temperature of between 700 and 1 000°C and at a HSV of more than ~~about~~ 50,000 h^{-1} in the presence of a catalyst that comprises a mixed oxide of zirconium and of cerium predominantly existing in the form of a solid solution.

2. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst exhibits an effective specific surface of greater than 25 m^2/g.

3. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ZrO_2/CeO_2 ratio by weight in the catalyst is between 80/20 and 20/80.

4. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst also comprises yttrium.

5. (currently amended): The process as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the catalyst has a specific surface of between 60 and 150 m^2/g when fresh.

6. (currently amended): A process for the decomposition to N_2 and O_2 of N_2O present in the effluent from a unit for the production of nitric acid, comprising: decomposing N_2O to N_2 and O_2 with a catalyst that comprises a mixed oxide of zirconium and of cerium in the form of a solid solution that is positioned under at least one platinum gauze of the reactor for the oxidation of ammonia, wherein the decomposition is carried out at a temperature of between 700°C and 1000°C and at a HSV of more than ~~about~~ 50,000 h^{-1}.

7. (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ZrO_2/CeO_2 ratio by weight in the catalyst is between 70/30 and 30/70.